

STRANGE TALES

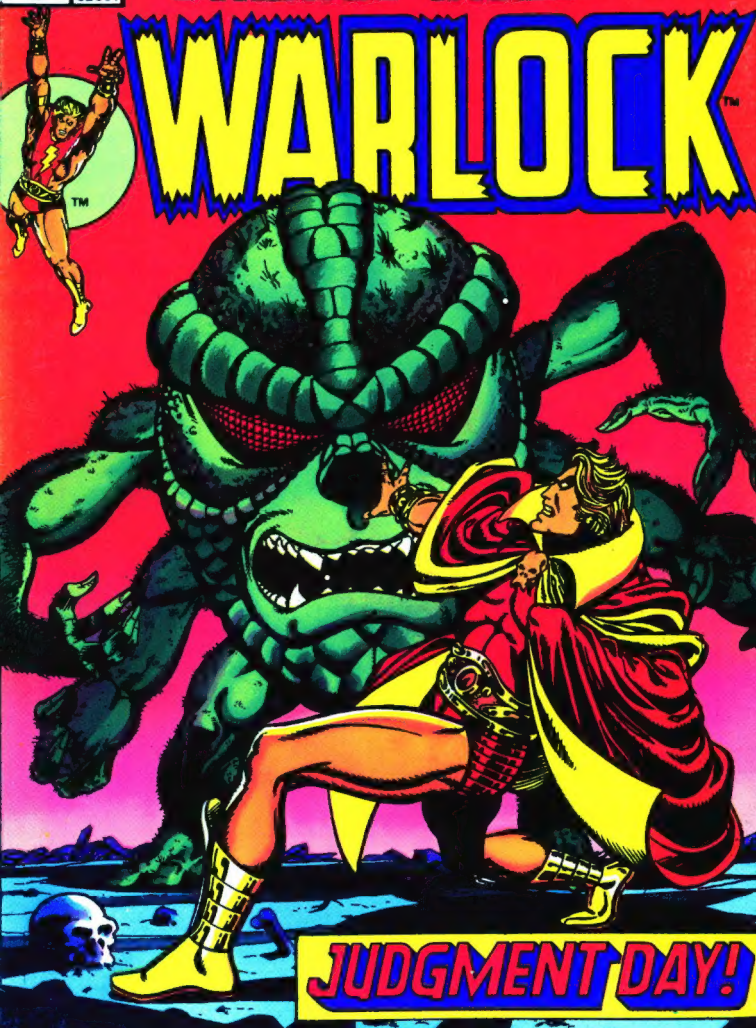
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WARLOCK™



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NATIONALLY ADVERTISED 1975 MODELS

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411 Pcs.

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AUTOMATIC
DUAL DRAG
SPINCAST
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FIELD TESTED LURES
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HOMEWORLD: A HARD PLANET--AND AN EVEN HARDER PLACE TO REACH! IT'S BEEN A LONG AND DANGEROUS JOURNEY!



SPECIAL THANKS to: AL WEISS for linking pages 19, 22, 27, and 31.

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FROM THE VERY BEGINNING, THE VOYAGE TO THIS CROSSROADS IN SPACE HAS BEEN LIBERALLY SPICED WITH VIOLENCE AND DEATH!

IT BEGAN WITH THE LOSS OF A YOUNG GIRL'S LIFE! SHE HAD COME TO WARN WARLOCK OF THE MAGUS, THE DEADLY GOD WORSHIPPED BY THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH OF TRUTH! ADAM WAS SOON TO LEARN THAT THIS FALSE DEITY WAS AND IS HIS OWN OTHER SELF, THOUGH HOW THIS CAN BE REMAINS A MYSTERY!

SETTING OUT TO ONCE AGAIN CONFRONT THIS DISINGENUOUS DIVINITY, WARLOCK SOON FOUND HIMSELF CAPTIVE ABOARD ONE OF THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH'S STARSHIPS, CONDEMNED TO DEATH BY THE MATRIARCH, THE RELIGION'S TEMPORAL LEADER!

THOUGH EASILY OVERCOMING THE SHIP'S CREW, ADAM NARROWLY AVOIDED DEATH AT THE HANDS OF AUTOLYCUS, THE STARSHIP'S CAPTAIN AND BLACK KNIGHT OF THE CHURCH! ONLY THE FACT THAT WARLOCK'S MYSTERIOUS SOUL GEM MOMENTARILY SPRANG TO INDEPENDENT LIFE AND STOLE THE CAPTAIN'S SOUL, SAVED THE ASTRAL AVENGER FROM CERTAIN DOOM!

UNFORTUNATELY, THIS RESCUE NEARLY LOST ADAM WARLOCK MORE THAN IT GAINED, FOR HE NOW MUST CARRY WITHIN HIMSELF THE MEMORY AND VERY SOUL OF HIS JEWEL'S VICTIM!

BUT FINALLY A SHIP'S SHUTTLE CRAFT WAS COMMANDEERED, AND SLIGHT ALTERATIONS WERE MADE ON ADAM'S COSTUME FOR SAKE OF ANONYMITY, AND THE LAST LEG OF THE JOURNEY HAS BEEN MADE IN THE COMPANY OF ONE MIP THE TROLL, A NEW-FOUND ALLY OF SORTS!



SO, NOW WHAT?

HERE I SIT UPON A HOSTILE WORLD, ALLIED WITH ONLY A VAMPIRE GEM AND A SLIGHTLY DEPRAVED TROLL!



STILL, PIP SEEMS TO KNOW HIS WAY AROUND THIS WORLD BETTER THAN THE MEMORIES I STOLE FROM THE LATE AUTOLYCUS! POOR DEVIL!

BEST NOT TO DWELL ON THE GRISLY AFFAIR JUST YET! IT'S STILL TOO EARLY... TOO FRESH FOR MY SANITY TO ACCEPT...

... AND I'VE ALREADY ENOUGH DARK THOUGHTS TO DWELL UPON THIS DAY...

... SINCE I'VE COME TO THIS WORLD TO KILL A GOD!



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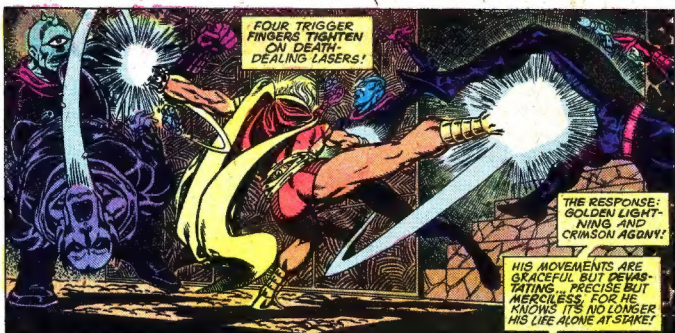
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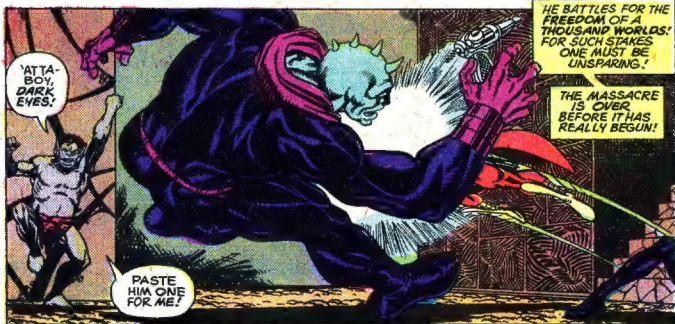
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FINGERS TIGHTEN
ON DEATH-
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THE RESPONSE:
GOLDEN LIGHT-
NING AND
CRIMSON AGONY!

HIS MOVEMENTS ARE
GRACEFUL BUT DEVAS-
TATING... PRECISE BUT
MERCILESS... FOR HE
KNOWS IT'S NO LONGER
HIS LIFE ALONE AT STAKE!



'ATTA-
BOY,
DARK
EYES!

PASTE
HIM ONE
FOR ME!

HE BATTLES FOR THE
FREEDOM OF A
THOUSAND WORLDS!
FOR SUCH TASKS
ONE MUST BE
UNSPARING!

THE MASSACRE
IS OVER
BEFORE IT HAS
REALLY BEGUN!



BOY, THEY SURE DON'T
BUILD RELIGIOUS FANATICS
LIKE THEY USED TO!

PIP... PLEASE
SHUT UP!

IT'S THE... SOUL GEM...
IT FIGHTS ME... IT'S TRY-
ING TO... BREAK FREE
FROM MY CONTROL... AGAIN!



I CAN FEEL IT... IT WANTS TO
SUCK IN... THE SOULS... OF
THESE FALLEN KNIGHTS...

...JUST LIKE IT DID... TO
AUTOLYCUS... I CAN'T ALLOW
THIS... TO HAPPEN...

...NOT
AGAIN!



I DID IT!

I'VE GOT IT
UNDER CONTROL
AGAIN!

BUT IT WAS
SO... SO HARD!



I FEARED IT MIGHT COME TO THIS!

THE SOUL GEM IS STEADILY GROWING STRONGER AND SHEDDING THE SUBCONSCIOUS CONTROL I'VE HAD OVER IT THE LAST THREE YEARS!

IT SEEMS TO BE FREE TO SATISFY ITS UNHOLY HUNGER FOR FRESH SOULS, TO SUCK THEM OUT OF LIVING BEINGS!

I WEAR A FIEND UPON MY FOREHEAD... A MONSTER - I NOW REALIZE...

... I MUST DESTROY!

TIME AND SPACE SHIFT! SHORT MINUTES LATER, HERE MILES AWAY:



YOUR MOST HOLINESS, THE MATRIARCH! I FEAR I MUST REPORT THAT THE INFIDEL, ADAM WARLOCK, HAS BEEN SIGHTED APPROACHING THE SACRED PALACE!

REALLY!

THESE ARE INDEED GLAD TIDINGS YOU BRING THIS DAY, PIOUS! I WAS AFRAID WE'D LOST DEAR ADAM!



I NEARLY MADE A SERIOUS MISTAKE EARLIER, TRYING TO HAVE WARLOCK KILLED! THAT MIGHT HAVE RUINED EVERYTHING!

FOR, IN WAYS NOT EVEN I UNDERSTAND, ALL THAT WE ARE AND ALL WE POSSESS DEPEND ON THIS STRANGE MAN!



IT'S FAR BETTER THAT HE LIVES TO SERVE ME THAN DIES AND DESTROYS ALL THAT I'VE BECOME!



SO BELIEVE ME WHEN I SAY... THAT IF ADAM WARLOCK IS FOOLISH ENOUGH TO COME TO THIS PALACE...

... HE'LL LEAVE HERE MY SLAVE!



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THIS IS AS SECLUDED A PLACE AS ANY WE'LL FIND.

ONCE AGAIN, PIP, I ASK YOU TO LEAVE ME. WHAT I'M ABOUT TO DO MAY BE EXTREMELY DANGEROUS!

FORGET IT! THAT GEM WON'T BOTHER ME!

IT'D CHOKE ON MY SOUL!

VERY WELL!

THE TIME HAS COME FOR ME TO REMOVE THIS GEM-- THOUGH I'VE WORN IT SO LONG, IT ALMOST FEELS LIKE A PART OF ME!

IS THAT WHY MY FINGERS TREMBLE...

AND A FEELING OF DOOM HANGS OVER ME?

I SHALL...

UWWN!

YET, I AM MASTER OF THIS GEM!

PAIN! EMPTINESS!! IT FLOWS FROM ME... ALL THAT I WAS... AM... EVER WILL BE... **GONE!**

GONE!

GONE!

ADAM, WHAT'S WRONG?

HOLY BLUE RABIES!

MY GEM MY LOVELY GEM

THE GEM? SURE! THAT MUST BE IT!

GOOF!

BOY OH BOY, DID YOU SCARE THE BLANK OUT OF ME!

YOU OKAY NOW, GOLDIE?

NO, PIP!

I'M AFRAID I MAY NEVER BE ALL RIGHT, EVER AGAIN!

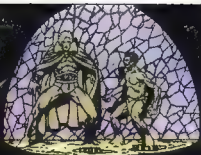
GOT TO PUT IT BACK!

I HAD LONG SUSPECTED THIS GEM MIGHT CONTAIN SOME TYPE OF ALIEN INTELLIGENCE, BUT I NEVER DREAMED HOW SHREWD IT MIGHT BE!

IT MUST HAVE GUESSED THAT IF I EVER LEARNED OF ITS GHASTLY APPETITES, I WOULD DESTROY IT!

SO ALL THE YEARS I'VE WORN THIS GEM, IT'S BEEN SLOWLY AND SUBTLY SUCKING MY SOUL INTO ITSELF...

...UNTIL I AM NOTHING BUT A HOLLOW SHELL, DEPENDANT UPON IT FOR LIFE ITSELF!



SEPARATED FROM THE GEM, I AM LIKE A PUPPET WITH ITS STRINGS CUT!

IN OTHER WORDS, THAT GEM HAS BECOME MY LIFEFORCE AND I... ITS PRISONER!

SO... YOU'VE FINALLY DISCOVERED WHAT A MENACE YOU CARRY UPON YOUR BROW?

IT'S ONE OF THE MATRIARCH'S SPY SCANNERS!

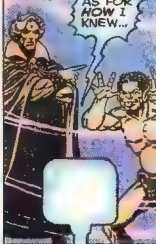
LOOK! IT'S OLD 'SLINK' HERSELF!

I CAN READ THE QUESTIONS IN YOUR EYES, WARLOCK... AND THE ANSWER IS... YES!



YES, I KNEW YOUR SOUL GEM WOULD BECOME A MENACE EVEN BEFORE YOU REALIZED IT!

AS FOR HOW I KNEW...



...YOU'LL HAVE TO COME TO THE SACRED PALACE TO LEARN THAT SECRET!



SO UNTIL THEN...

STUFF IT, SLINK!

WHAT DOES SHE THINK WE ARE? IDIOTS?

WHAT AN OBVIOUS TRAP!

YES, OBVIOUS...



TRUE, THE BAIT WAS QUITE TEMPTING, BUT...

SAY, HOW DO YOU SUPPOSE SHE LEARNED ABOUT, YOUR GEM?

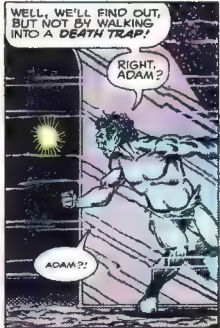
I'VE NO IDEA!



WELL, WE'LL FIND OUT, BUT NOT BY WALKING INTO A DEATH TRAP!

RIGHT, ADAM?

ADAM?!



PLUS AS MUCH AS \$2.00 to \$10.00 CASH EVERY WEEK!



**Print Your
Last Name
Plainly Here**

[illegible]

I HATED TO DESERT
PIP IN SUCH A
MANNER, BUT IT'S
BEST THAT ONLY I
FACE WHAT LIES
AHEAD!

AFTER
ALL, AM I
NOT TO
BLAME FOR
ALL THE WRONG
THAT HAS BEEN
DONE? SO
SHOULD NOT
THE DANGER
BE MINE
ALONE?

IT'S MY
SPIRIT THAT'S
SUFFERING
FROM A
COSMIC DUAL
PERSONALITY,
THUS CREATING
THE MAGUS!

IT'S MY
RESPONSIBILITY
TO FIND THE
CURE!

BUT BEFORE
ANYONE CAN CURE
ANY DISEASE ONE
MUST LEARN ITS
CAUSE!

THOUGH I SUSPECT
THAT THE MAGUS MIGHT
BE ANOTHER CRUEL JEST
ON THE PART OF MY
SOUL GEM, I DARE NOT
TAKE ANY ACTION AGAINST
IT UNTIL I'M SURE!

I'M LIKE A MAN TRYING
TO ASSEMBLE AN
UNKNOWN PIECE OF
MACHINERY IN THE DARK!

ONE WRONG MOVE ON
MY PART MIGHT DESTROY
ALL THE CAREFULLY
BALANCED MECHANICS OF
TIME AND SPACE...

...FOR I'M DEALING WITH
THE HIGHLY DANGEROUS
PROBLEM OF HAVING TWO
IDENTICAL BEINGS LIVING
IN THE SAME POINT OF
WHEN AND WHERE!

MY ONLY HOPE IS THAT
THE MATRIARCH MAY
TRULY POSSESS SOME OF
THE KNOWLEDGE I SEEK,
FOR I NOW REALIZE THAT
I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO
DEFEAT MY ENEMY IN A
FRONTAL CONFRONTATION!

EVEN THOUGH WE MAY
BE TWINS OF THE INNER
SELF, IT'S OBVIOUS THAT
THE MAGUS' PERSONAL
STRENGTH FAR SURPASSES
MY OWN!

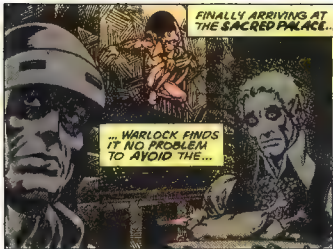
THAT POWER,
AUGMENTED BY A
MILITARY FORCE OF
THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH
MAKES THE MAGUS A
NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE
FOE TO STOP!

YET STOP HIM
I MUST!

FOR IF I
FAIL, ALL
LIFE FALLS
WITH ME!

I'M SURE MY
OTHER SELF
WILL NEVER BE
SATISFIED WITH
ANYTHING LESS
THAN TOTAL
DOMINATION
OVER ALL
LIVING THINGS
THROUGHOUT
ALL SPACE...

...FOR, WOULD
I DESIRE
ANYTHING LESS
IF I CHOSE
HIS PATH?



FINALLY ARRIVING AT THE SACRED PALACE...

...WARLOCK FINDS IT NO PROBLEM TO AVOID THE...



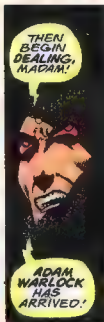
...COLD, SEARCHING EYES OF THE PALACE GUARDS OR THE DULL ORBS OF THE FRONTALLY LOBOTOMIZED PALACE SERVANTS!



YOUR HOLINESS, THE INFIDEL HAS AGAIN BEEN SIGHTED NEARING THE PALACE!

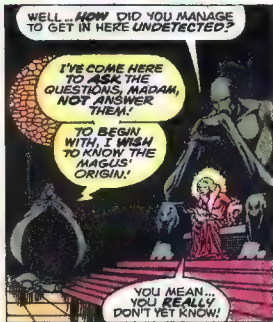
SHALL I SUMMON YOUR PERSONAL GUARD?

NO, I'LL DEAL WITH THIS WARLOCK MYSELF!



THEN BEGIN DEALING, MADAM!

ADAM WARLOCK HAS ARRIVED!



WELL... HOW DID YOU MANAGE TO GET IN HERE UNDETECTED?

I'VE COME HERE TO ASK THE QUESTIONS, MADAM, NOT ANSWER THEM!

TO BEGIN WITH, I WISH TO KNOW THE MAGUS' ORIGIN!

YOU MEAN... YOU REALLY DON'T YET KNOW!



NOT DEFINITELY... THOUGH I STRONGLY SUSPECT MY SOUL GEM OF CREATING HIM!

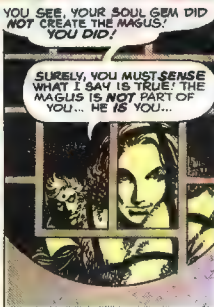
SECONDLY, HOW DID YOU KNOW MY GEM HAD BEGUN TO REBEL AGAINST ME?



WELL, TO ANSWER YOUR SECOND QUESTION FIRST... THE MAGUS TOLD ME IT HAD HAPPENED A LONG TIME AGO!

A LONG TIME AGO...?

THAT'S RIGHT!



YOU SEE, YOUR SOUL GEM DID NOT CREATE THE MAGUS! YOU DID!

SURELY, YOU MUST SENSE WHAT I SAY IS TRUE! THE MAGUS IS NOT PART OF YOU... HE IS YOU...



...THE YOU OF THE FUTURE!



NO! THIS CAN'T BE TRUE!

I COULD NEVER BECOME THIS EVIL!

YOU SEEK TO TRICK ME!



LOOK AT YOURSELF, WARLOCK!

YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN A CREATURE OF PASSION AND EXCESS!

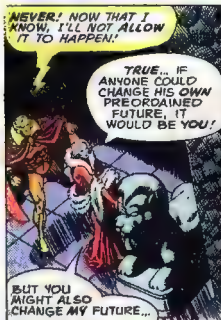
YOU EITHER LOVE DEARLY OR HATE VICIOUSLY!

YOU'VE NO MIDDLE GROUND FOR YOUR EMOTIONS!



THAT'S YOUR OWN SPECIAL BRAND OF MADNESS AND THE REASON YOU'LL SOMEDAY...

... BECOME THE MAGUS YOURSELF!



NEVER! NOW THAT I KNOW, I'LL NOT ALLOW IT TO HAPPEN!

TRUE... IF ANYONE COULD CHANGE HIS OWN PREORDAINED FUTURE, IT WOULD BE YOU!

BUT YOU MIGHT ALSO CHANGE MY FUTURE...



... AND I'VE BECOME QUITE FOND OF RULING A THOUSAND WORLDS!

SO THAT'S WHY YOU'VE NOT ATTEMPTED TO KILL ME TODAY!



THAT'S RIGHT! IF YOU DIE, MY EMPIRE MIGHT NEVER BE!

MY ONLY RECOURSE IS TO IMPRISON YOU UNTIL YOU SEE THINGS MY WAY!



AND NOW DO YOU PLAN TO DO THAT?

UNABLE TO CONCENTRATE QUICKLY ENOUGH TO LEVITATE...

... WARLOCK DROPS THROUGH THE HIDDEN TRAP DOOR!



AND GRACEFULLY LANDS IN WHAT ADAM PRESUMES TO BE THE PALACE'S DUNGEON!



IMMEDIATELY, WARLOCK IS AWARE THAT HE IS NOT ALONE IN THIS BLACKNESS - FOR LONG DRAWN MOMENTS THE OMINOUS DARKNESS HANGS...

... THEN, ABRUPTLY, THERE IS LIGHT!

TRIAL OF ADAM WARLOCK

HEAR YE!
HEAR YE!
THIS COURT IS
NOW IN SESSION!

HIS HONOR, THE
GRAND INQUISITOR
KRAY-TOR,
WILL BE PRESIDING

THIS GLORIOUS
COURT HAS BEEN
CALLED TO ORDER
THIS DAY TO SIT IN
JUDGMENT OF THIS
HEATHEN BEFORE US!

HE HAS BEEN ACCUSED
OF PAGANISM, HERESY,
WITCHCRAFT, CONSORTING
WITH NON-PRODUCTIVES,
AND THE MURDER OF A
LOYAL BLACK KNIGHT
OF THE FAITH!

HOW DO YOU
PLEAD, INFIDEL?

WHAT
IS THIS?

THE RECORD WILL
SHOW THE DEFENDENT
PLEADS NOT GUILTY!

BAILIFFS!

RESTRAIN THE PRISONER!

HE HAS A HISTORY OF VIOLENCE!

I'LL NOT HAVE THIS COURT NEEDLESSLY INTERRUPTED!

INFIDEL, YOU HAVE BEEN ACCUSED OF A NUMBER OF SERIOUS CRIMES!

THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH HAS ASSIGNED ME THE TASK--

--OF SEEING YOU RECEIVE A FAIR TRIAL!

WHICH MEANS I SHALL ACT AS JUDGE, ASSURING THAT YOUR DESTRUCTION IS CARRIED OUT WITHIN THE STRICT LETTER OF THE LAW!

TO YOUR RIGHT IS OUR DISTRICT PROSECUTOR. HE SHALL SUPPLY US WITH PHONY CHARGES, LYING WITNESSES AND FALSIFIED EVIDENCE!

TO YOUR LEFT IS YOUR COURT-APPOINTED DEFENDER! WE'LL SUPPLY YOU WITH THE BEST LEGAL COUNCIL AVAILABLE, IF HE CAN STAY AWAKE!

ONCE THE EVIDENCE OF YOUR GUILT HAS BEEN PROVEN, YOUR FATE WILL BE DECIDED...

...BY YONDER JURY OF YOUR PEERS!

ANY QUESTIONS?

YES! THIS COURT DERIVES ITS POWER TO JUDGE OTHERS FROM THE HOLY MAGUS! CORRECT?

TRUE!

THEN I'D LIKE TO MOVE FOR DISMISSAL OF MY CASE!

THIS COURT IS QUITE AWARE THAT THE MAGUS AND I ARE ONE AND THE SAME BEING, THUS MAKING IT IMPOSSIBLE...

...FOR THIS COURT TO TRY ME!

YOUR POWER COMES FROM A PART OF ME GONE MAD! THIS MAKES YOU UNFIT AND UNQUALIFIED TO PASS JUDGMENT UPON ME!

I DEMAND TO BE TRIED BY THE MAGUS HIMSELF!

MOTION DENIED!

THE PRISONER
WILL REFRAIN
FROM ANY FURTHER
OUTBURSTS OR
FIND HIMSELF
GASSED!

ANY MOTIONS OR
OBJECTIONS WILL BE
MADE BY YOUR PUBLIC
DEFENDER! THAT'S
HIS JOB!

BUT, HE
HAS NO
ACQUIT!

I WARN YOU! THIS
COURT HAS THE
RESPONSIBILITY TO
KNOW THE POPULACE
THAT EVEN A FILTHY
HEATHEN LIKE YOU WILL
RECEIVE A FAIR TRIAL
HERE!

SO EVEN THOUGH YOU AND
I KNOW IT'S ALL A SWAM
AND THAT YOUR FATE
HAS ALREADY BEEN
DECIDED, YOU'D BEST
PLAY ALONG WITH US!

DO YOU UNDERSTAND?

PERFECTLY!

THE
PROSECUTION
WILL CALL ITS
FIRST
WITNESS!

THE CHURCH
WISHES TO
CALL...

...YON-LOK,
REBEL AND
INFIDEL, TO
THE STAND!

CITIZEN YON-
LOK, WILL YOU
POINT OUT...

...TO THIS
COURT THE MAN
YOU ACCUSE
OF HIGH
CHURCH CRIMES!

GLADLY!

HE'S THE ONE!
HE AND EVERY
MEMBER OF
THIS COURT!

I ACCUSE
YOU ALL!

YOU'RE GUILTY OF TWISTING
EVERYTHING THAT WAS GOOD
UNTIL IT NOW SERVES NOTHING
BUT YOUR OWN EVIL ENDS!

BAILIFFS!

SILENCE
THE
WITNESS!

DISREGARD
THIS
WITNESS'
TESTIMONY!

THE JURY IS INSTRUCTED TO...

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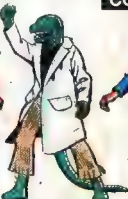
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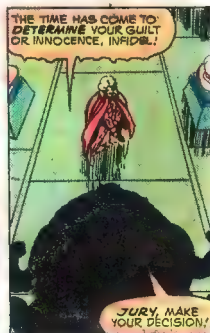
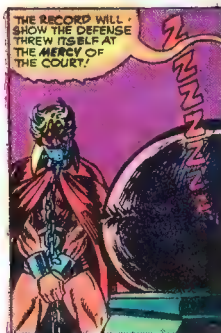
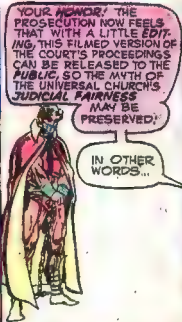
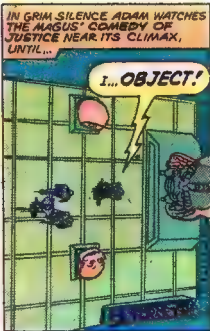
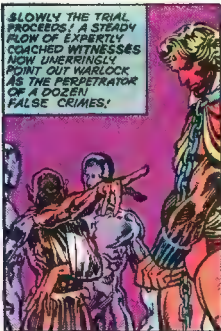
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MEANWHILE, AT A NEARBY TAVERN FOR IN-PORT SPACERS...

BLAST THAT WARLOCK'S EYES, EARS, AND ANY OTHER ORGAN HE MIGHT HAVE USE FOR!

I'VE BEEN DESERTED!

HERE I LEAD HIM TO THIS JUNKHEAP PLANET FOR SOME EXCITEMENT, BUT AS SOON AS THINGS BEGIN TO GET INTERESTING... I GET LEFT BEHIND!

BARKEEP! ONE MORE STINGER-- HEAVY ON THE STING!

WELL, I REFUSE TO LET THIS RUIN MY STAY HERE ON HOME-WORLD, 'BIRTHPLACE OF THE ONE TRUE RELIGION'. MIGHT AS WELL DESECRATE ONE OF ITS TEMPLES WHILE I'M HERE!

THAT'LL BE FUN!

HEY YOU! TROLL? YOUR NAME PIR, BY ANY CHANCE?

WHAT'S IT TO YOU?

PLENTY! ALL THE CHURCH RADIO BANDS HAVE GOT AN 'ALL POINTS' OUT ON YOU...

...AND YOU PLAN TO TURN ME IN FOR THE REWARD?

KEEP YOUR HANDS ON THE BAR, MAGGOT, 'LESS YOU WANT THIS IN YOUR GUT!

BUT JUST TO SET YOUR MIND AT EASE, I'M NOT LOOKING TO COLLECT THE BOUNTY ON YOU!

IN FACT, I'M NOT INTERESTED IN YOU AT ALL, FLEA BAG!

I'M SEEKING YOUR FRIEND, ADAM WARLOCK!

WELL, I'M AFRAID YOU'RE A BIT TOO LATE, SISTER! WE'VE PARTED COMPANY!

HE RAN OFF TO THE SACRED PALACE AND LEFT ME BEHIND!

FOR ALL I KNOW, HE MIGHT BE DEAD BY NOW!

WHY ARE YOU LOOKING FOR HIM, ANYWAY?

I'VE COME TO SEE IF THIS WARLOCK REALLY WAS A CHANCE OF DEFEATING THE MAGUS!

IF HE DOES, I PLAN TO JOIN HIM!

IF HE DOESN'T, I PLAN TO KILL ADAM WARLOCK!

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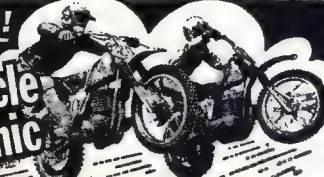


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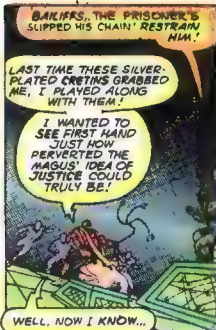


ADAM WARLOCK,
YOU HAVE BEEN
FOUND GUILTY...

... AND ARE
HEREBY
SENTENCED TO
A CHURCH-HOUSE
OF CORRECTION!



'HOUSE OF CORRECTION'?
MORE LIKE A BRAINWASHING
CENTER, I'D SAY!

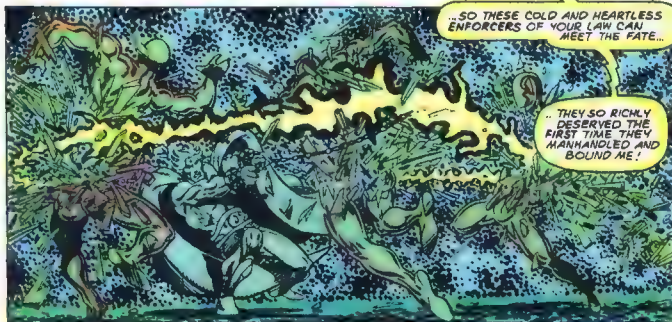


BAILIFFS, THE PRISONER'S
SLIPPED HIS CHAIN! RESTRAIN
HIM!

LAST TIME THESE SILVER-
PLATED CROTCHES GRABBED
ME, I PLAYED ALONG
WITH THEM!

I WANTED TO
SEE FIRST HAND
JUST HOW
PERVERTED THE
MAGUS' IDEA OF
JUSTICE COULD
TRULY BE!

WELL, NOW I KNOW...



... SO THESE COLD AND HEARTLESS
ENFORCERS OF YOUR LAW CAN
MEET THE FATE...

... THEY SO RICHLY
DESERVED THE
FIRST TIME THEY
HAMHANDLED AND
BOUND ME!

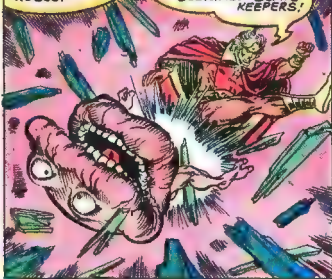


I MIGHT ALSO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY
TO EXPRESS THE CONTEMPT I FEEL...

... TOWARD THIS MINDLESS
'AND HEARTLESS' JURY
OF MY PEERS' AND THE
REST OF THESE
PROCEEDINGS!

NEVER HAVE I SEEN
EVIL WEAR SUCH
SANCTIMONIOUS
ROBES!

YOU CLAIM TO BE JUSTICE,
YET IN TRUTH YOU'RE
NOTHING MORE THAN
GLORIFIED SLAVE
KEEPERS!



YOU ENFORCE LAWS THAT GRIND
ANY WHO SEEK FREEDOM
UNDER YOUR LEGAL HEELS!

THEN YOU FOOL THE
GENERAL PUBLIC INTO
THINKING THAT YOUR
POLITICAL MURDERS...

... ARE THE
ACT OF
HEAVENLY
JUSTICE!



WELL, I SEE YOUR VILLAINY
FOR WHAT IT TRULY IS!

SO SPOUT NO GRAND
PHRASES AS YOU SEEK
TO DESTROY ME...



... FOR I'M SICK OF THIS GAME
AND WILL PLAY NO LONGER!

VERY WELL,
THEN!

SINCE YOU REFUSE TO SUBMIT
TO CHURCH REHABILITATION, I
AM FORCED TO REVERSE MY
PREVIOUS, MEACFUL, RULING
AND SENTENCE YOU NOW TO...

...**DEATH!**



SO NOW, WITH THE POWERS
VESTED WITHIN ME, I HEREBY
DECREE THAT YOU SINK WITHIN
THE MIRE OF YOUR OWN CRIMES!

THE FLOOR,
YOU MEAN?



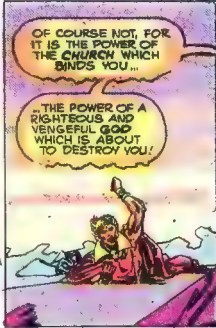
YES, BUT IT WILL BE THE
WEIGHT OF YOUR OWN
SINS WHICH PULLS YOU
STEADILY DOWNWARD!

A PULL NOT EVEN MY
SOUL GEM SEEMS
CAPABLE OF REVERSING!



OF COURSE NOT, FOR
IT IS THE POWER OF
THE CHURCH WHICH
BINDS YOU...

THE POWER OF A
RIGHTEOUS AND
VENGEFUL GOD
WHICH IS ABOUT
TO DESTROY YOU!



A CAPTIONOUS COLLECTION OF CAPTIVATING CAPSULE COMMENTS CALCULATED TO CORRAL YOUR CONSCIOUSNESS

This is it! The recognition we've all been waiting for! You've read movie reviews, book reviews, record reviews, right? Well, now at last, the nation's top literary critics have begun reviewing comics— or, at least, a book about Marvel Comics! I know you're as anxious to read their verdict as I was, so without any further ado, here's the first batch of notices for the **ORIGINS OF MARVEL COMICS**—

Ray Bradbury, in the **LOS ANGELES TIMES**: "Stan Lee's new volume is the very stuff for you. It is, as he puts it, 'a pictorial tonic to relieve the awesome affliction that threatens us all: the endlessly spreading virus of too much reality in a world that is losing its heroes.' Stan's book is to me a better light bulb. Frivolous? Perhaps. Frightening? Sometimes. With hidden meanings. Stan Lee's comics are better than Lichtenstein can ever hope to be." **THE DAILY ENTERPRISE-SUN**: "Comicbook heroes are making a comeback. Nowhere is that comeback put together so attractively as in this winner by Stan Lee. It's the best of the comic collections." **SAN**

FRANCISCO EXAMINER: "The name Stan Lee is known to millions of comic-book fans all over the world. Marvel Comics sell in dozens of countries at a rate of 75 million a year." **PLAYBOY**: "Very much fun. People have written graduate papers on just such themes, and for them—and all other true believers—we're heading for the newsstand." **CUE**: "These are fairy tales for older people. They are fun, like Vonnegut and Tolkien. The last place where you can recapture the fantasy—the wonder—" **BOOK-OF-THE-MONTH CLUB NEWS**: "A snappy new book. One of the good things about Lee's **ORIGINS** is that for each hero discussed he reproduces the subject's first adventure story along with a more recent episode." **WOMAN'S WEAR DAILY**: "Lee—might almost be a movie director using the storyboard approach." **FAMILY WEEKLY**: "Stan Lee is in 'big time' publishing." **THE PITT NEWS**: "This work—is integral to the development of each of the fictional characters created by Marvel. It is a genealogy, a bible. The greatest criticism of the book is that it is not enough." **BERGEN COUNTY RECORD**: "**ORIGINS** holds

one's interest—Lee's writing is as colorful as the book's reprints of historic back issues. What also holds the reader is its recounting of the feeling that went into the creation of the superheroes." **THE RUTGERS DAILY TARGUM**: "The one you've been waiting for. The one book you can't afford to miss." **PHILADELPHIA BULLETIN**: "Stan Lee, guiding genius of 'Marvelmania' in comic books, has included some gloriously marvel-maniacal comics in this sampler. Even adults, especially gallery-goers, should enjoy the artistry of Marvel Comics books; far and away the leaders in their field." **CHICAGO NEWS**: "True believers, step right up!"

And that's only a sample of the hundreds that are pouring in! Who says comics aren't an idea whose time has come? Who says your blushin' Bulpfen hasn't achieved the year's most stupendous literary breakthrough? Who says this isn't the Marvel Age of Comics? And before some wise-guy shouts "I saysi!", I'm cuttin' out—it's time to take a troll to tea!

Excelsior!

Stan

ITEM! What's that, Tigers? You say you've been silently scanning those liting letters pages you've become so avaciously addicted to while reading our titanic titles to these many Marvelous years, and you've yet to find the startling new **MARVEL VALUE STAMPS** we've been promising to toss at ya for the past few months? Well, don't fret. Fearless Ones, your eagle eyes aren't failing you—it's just that the ever-unpredictable inmates of your batty Marvel Bulpfen have decided to go all out as usual in their quest to provide the most royally rapturous recreation possible for True Believers everywhere. When the now-legendary **SECOND SERIES** of MVStamps in finally assaults your wide-open orbs in just a few short weeks, they will stun you, they will shock you, they will leave you utterly speechless—for in all your years as madcap Marvelites, you will never in your memory have seen the like of what we have in store for you! And remember, even though the concept is so daringly different, you'll still be able to treat yourself to the same glamorous goodies and more when all one hundred startling stamps are at last in your pulse-pounding possession! Truth to tell, we wouldn't do all this if we didn't love ya!

ITEM! Everyone here has heard the name **DAMON RUNYON**. He's the scintillating author whose singular view of the screwy city called New York has delighted the hearts of millions everywhere, and birthed such world-renowned productions as "Guys and

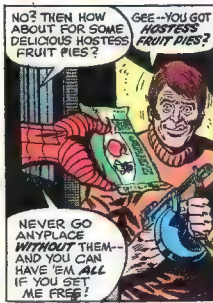
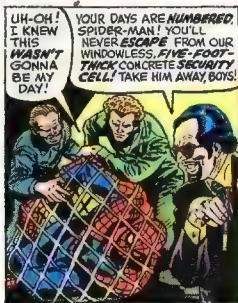
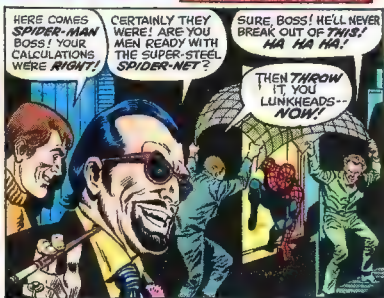
Dolls" and "Pocketful of Miracles." A genius, right? So who'd ever have thought that **TONY (The Tiger) ISABELLA**, bare-faced youth from Cleveland, would someday move to Fun City and directly into the penthouse apartment once owned by the illustrious Mr. Runyon himself. We won't say that this startling fact has had any sort of adverse effect on the Tigerish One; but we've noticed a disturbing tendency for names like "Sky Masterson" and "Apple Annie" to pop up in Tony's scripts of late. A subtle influence—or perhaps more? (Wow, what a strange idea—the **GHOST RIDER** scripted by a ghost writer!)

ITEM! Hey, hope you're one of the lucky ones who's been latching onto the minor masterpieces Judo **JIM STARLIN** has been turning out every sixty days on the all-new, all-improved **WARLOCK** strip. As far as we can tell, **STRANGE TALES** fanatics everywhere are flipping their collective corks over the spectacular Mr. Starlin's dynamic drawings (not to mention his sizzling scripting and capricious coloring). In fact, the only discouraging words we've heard at all thus far have come from a gregarious grey gargoyle called **The Golem**—and we suspect that he might be just a wee bit prejudiced! Also, let's not forget Dynamic **DAVE COCKRUM**, whose fan dream of a lifetime came true when he was chosen to illustrate the equally all-new equally all-improved adventures of the X-cruciatingly X-citing **X-MEN**, who are currently cavorting in their brand-new **GIANT-SIZE** mag!

Who says this ain't the Marvel Age of Sensational Second Chances?

ITEM! And just so you don't think we're sitting on our slightly-wilted laurels, we're gonna let you in on a few searing secrets! Listen closely now... we're gonna whisper 'cause we don't want the competition to hear the names of our newest stars! They'll be popping up in their own spanning-new features in the next few months—and we want you to be prepared for 'em! So look out for **BLOODSTONE**—he stalks the shadowed lands WHERE **MONSTERS DWELL!** And the sinister **SCARECROW** will be waiting for you in the **DEAD OF NIGHT!** The mind-boggling **MODRED THE MYSTIC** will be battling arcane forces in the back of **GIANT-SIZE WEREWOLF!** And lastly, prepare yourself for the coming of **SKULL THE SLAYER**, a character with a story-line so powerful, we haven't decided where we're gonna present it just yet. Hang in there, Pilgrim—the best is yet to come. (And if you have a few paltry sheekles left over, you might want to pick up the first pulse-pounding issue of a little item called **GIANT-SIZE INVADERS!** It features the all-new adventures of **CAPTAIN AMERICA** and **BUCKY**, the savage **SUB-MARINER**, and the Original **HUMAN TORCH** and **TORO**, fighting for freedom in the torrid early days of World War Two! It's a concept so off-beat, you're just gonna have to love it!) And on that note, we return you to your regularly-scheduled 'Marvel mag'...

SPIDER-MAN in THE TRAP



ALL HAIL THE
MAGUS!

THE ONE
TRUE
GOD!

KRAY-TOR,
I THANK YOU!

UP TO NOW I HAVE BEEN LOST!

BUT YOU'VE JUST
SHOWN ME THE WAY!

UNTIL MEETING YOU, I FEARED
THAT I MIGHT BE INTERFERING
WITH THOSE THINGS THAT ONLY
THE DARK FORCES OF CHAOS
AND ORDER SHOULD MIDDLE
WITH.

INDEED, AT TIMES
I'VE EVEN CONSIDERED
FLEEING AND LEAVING
MY OTHER SELF, THE
MAGUS, TO HIS
MISCHIEF!

ONLY NOW, UPON DISCOVERING
YOU, DO I REALIZE THAT THIS
ACCURSED GEM UPON MY BROW
WAS SENT TO ME BY SOME
POWER, BEYOND MY COMPRE-
HENSION, FOR A PURPOSE!

THAT PURPOSE...
TO DESTROY
EVIL SUCH AS
YOURSELF!

YES, I NOW REALIZE THAT YOUR
KIND ARE THE ULTIMATE IN
VILENESS, FOR YOU CLOAK YOUR
SINS IN PIOUS WORDS AND HOLY
VESTMENTS, JUDGING ALL BUT
YOURSELVES!

SO MAY WHAT-
EVER GODS BE FOR-
GIVE ME, FOR THIS
DAY I JOIN YOUR
RANKS...

*NO! DO NOT FIGHT ME THIS TIME!

*YES, RELEASE ME! IT WILL BE GOOD!

*YES, SO GOOD!

NO!

A FLAMING EMERALD BEAM FLASHES FROM THE
SINISTER SOUL GEM AND KRAY-TOR'S SOUL IS
WRENCHED FROM HIS BODY, AND FLOWS INTO
THE FRENZIED ADAM WARLOCK!

*MEMORIES, IMAGES,
THOUGHTS LIKE NONE I'VE
EVER TASTED!

DELICIOUS.

WHAT HAVE I DONE?

I'VE JUST ALLOWED... NO, COMMANDED THE GEM TO STEAL A SOUL!

WHAT'S COME OVER ME?

BUT CAN'T THINK OF THAT NOW... CAN'T THINK, PERIOD! SO MANY THOUGHTS IN MY HEAD... NOT MINE!

THEY'RE KRAYTOR'S THOUGHTS... NO!

OH NO! AT LAST I UNDERSTAND!

HE TRULY BELIEVED... WHAT HE DID... WAS JUST!

I THREATENED HIS BELIEFS! IN HIS MIND... I WAS A VILLAIN!

EVEN WORSE YET... BY STEALING HIS SOUL...

... I PROVED HIM RIGHT... oooooh...

YES, YOU DO AT LAST UNDERSTAND! WE'RE ALL HEROES IN OUR OWN MINDS...

... EVEN ME!

BUT YOU'RE BEYOND CARING ABOUT SUCH THINGS, AREN'T YOU?

YOU PROBABLY DON'T EVEN CARE THAT I EXPECTED YOU TO PURLOIN THE JUDGE'S SPIRIT!

YOU SEE, ADAM, THAT WAS THE ONLY WAY I COULD THINK OF TO SAFELY RENDER YOU SENSELESS!

I COULDN'T TAKE THE CHANCE OF YOU BEING KILLED IN AN ARMED CONFRONTATION...

... AND I COULDN'T BRAINWASH YOU WHILE YOU REMAINED CONSCIOUS!

BUT, I'LL EXPLAIN ALL THIS TO YOU WHEN THE WORKERS IN THE PIT ARE THROUGH INDOCTRINATING YOU...

... I HOPE!

NEXT:
THE SECRET OF THE PIT... PIP TO THE RESCUE... AND...

1,000
CLOWNS



THESE 3 BIG DRAFTING KITS* GIVEN TO YOU!

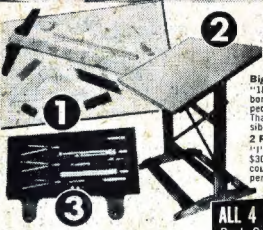
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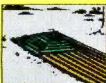
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Scott Bloom
 Washington



Last year I went to them my customers. This year they came to me.
Lois Pease
 Maine



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Tom DeLaney
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